

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 COA-02

DLOS-07 /163 W

----- 053552

R 091345Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2561

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 9094

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ENRG, IN, BG

SUBJECT: INDIAN AND BANGLADESH OFFSHORE WATERS

REF: A) DACCA 2988; B) NEW DELHI 7453; C) NEW DELHI A-223,  
6/8/74.

1. POINTS RAISED BY AMEMBASSY DACCA ON INDO/BANGLADESH  
OFFSHORE MEDIAN LINE LOCATION (VIS-A-VIS POSSIBLE FUTURE BDG  
CLAMS IN THIS REGARD) DO INDEED BEAR WATCHING. MEANWHILE,  
WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS AND PROPOSALS:

2. AS REPORTED EARLIER, ON JUNE 4 WE INFORMALLY DISCUSSED  
OFFSHORE BOUNDARY MATTERS WITH GOI OFFICIALS (IN LIGHT OF FORTHCOMING  
AMERICAN COMPANY PRESENCE IN INDIAN WATERS IN THE BAY OF BENGAL)  
AND DISCREETLY SUPPORTED EARLY GOI/BDG BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS.  
AT THAT TIME, DR. GOPAL RAMASWAMY, CHIEF, EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
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MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, GOI, ASSURED THE MINATT THAT INDO/ BANGLADESH "TECHNICAL LEVEL" OFFSHORE BORDER DISCUSSIONS WERE THEN SCHEDULED TO BEGIN "WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS" (REFS. B AND C) AND THAT GOI'S AIM WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE MEDIAN LINE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES PRIOR TO FIELD OPERATIONS BY NATOMAS/CARLSBERG (ABOUT SEPTEMBER 1974).

3. WE BELIEVE THAT IF WE WERE TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT AGAIN, AT THIS EARLY DATE AT LEAST, WE WOULD APPEAR TO BE PRESSURING THE GOI ON A MATTER THAT IS NOT OF DIRECT USG CONCERN. IN ANY EVENT, BOTH RAMASWAMY AND PETROLEUM MINISTRY SECRETARY, P. K. DAVE (THE GOI'S TWO OFFICIALS IMMEDIATELY INVOLVED IN THIS QUESTION), ARE CURRENTLY ON VACATION. WE WILL PROVIDE UPDATED INFORMATION ON PROGRESS (IF ANY) ON A SURVEY OR RELATED GOI/BDG MEDIAN LINE DISCUSSIONS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE, OF COURSE, BUT IN THE INTERIM WE WONDER IF BDG OFFICIALS HAVE COMMUNICATED RECENTLY WITH THE GOI ON THIS SUBJECT. RAMASWAMY INDICATED (ON JUNE 4) THAT THE GOI WOULD INITIATE DISCUSSIONS, BUT POSSIBLY THE INDIANS ARE ACTUALLY WAITING FOR BD TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE. IT IS POSSIBLE, ALSO, THAT THE GOI IS STILL DOING ITS PRE-DISCUSSION HOMEWORK.

4. WITH REFERENCE TO INQUIRY CONTAINED IN DACCA 2988, PARA 6, WE URGENTLY RECOMMEND THAT ALL DATA INCLUDED IN REFS B AND C BE HELD CLOSELY AS CLASSIFIED (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE). THE LATITUDE/ LONGITUDE DESCRIPTIONS AND DATA QUOTED FROM THE MAY 14, 1974 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOI AND NATOMAS/CARLSBERG WERE GIVEN TO THE MINATT IN CONFIDENCE BY RAMASWAMY (WITH THE PETROLEUM MINISTRY SECRETARY'S APPROVAL) WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WOULD

BE HELD FOR APPROPRIATE USG USE ONLY; UNTIL MADE PUBLIC BY THE GOI. IT WILL BE RECALLED, INCIDENTALLY, THAT (IN REFS B AND C) WE NOTED THAT THE GOI CONSIDERS THE CURRENT OFFSHORE AREA VII DESCRIPTION TO BE "TENTATIVE" AND SUBJECT TO FURTHER ADJUSTMENT IN THE VICINITY OF BANGLADESH, IF REQUIRED, FOLLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT BY THE GOI AND THE BDG OF A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE OFFSHORE MEDIAN LINE. THIS ALONE IS SUFFICIENT TO WITHHOLD THESE DATA UNLESS OR UNTIL MADE PUBLIC BY THE GOI.

5. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF A GOI/BDG DISPUTE ON THIS SUBJECT AS  
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YET, AND WE DO NOT WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO ONE BY PASSING ON GOI DATA (OR OUR OVERLAY) TO BDG OFFICIALS OR OTHER UNAUTHORIZED NON-USG END-USERS (REFA, PARA 6).  
SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TERRITORIAL WATERS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 JUL 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** shawdg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974NEWDE09094  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DG ALTERED  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**From:** NEW DELHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 111  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Review Date:** 09 JUL 2002  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INDIAN AND BANGLADESH OFFSHORE WATERS  
**TAGS:** ENRG, IN, BG  
**To:** DACCA  
**Type:** TE  
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